



SUNDAY 9th JANUARY 2022

SERVICES ARE AT 11 AM & 6 PM (online & in-person).

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WELCOME TO THE FREE NORTH CHURCH, BANK STREET, INVERNESS

Welcome, especially if you are with us for the first time or are taking time to explore the Christian faith. We offer courses, small groups and resources to help new people finding their way in the Christian faith. In our services we usually stand for our praise songs and sit for other items of worship. We give a special welcome to folk joining us from Merkinch Free Church today. There are no services in Merkinch today as Chris Davidson and some of the core team members are isolating due to Covid. We follow Scottish Government guidance to protect public health. Please use a face covering indoors, unless exempt, and avoid crowding or blocking exits. Folk from different households should try to observe 1 m social distancing. There is no need to book to attend in-person and we will not ask for your contact details but please do not attend if you are feeling unwell. Visit and subscribe to our YouTube channel for live online worship and to listen again at home: www.youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness.

MORNING ORDER OF SERVICE – 9th JANUARY 2022

CALL TO WORSHIP (FROM PSALM 124)

*If the Lord had not been on our side —the flood would have engulfed us,
the torrent would have swept over us, the raging waters would have swept us away.
Praise be to the Lord. Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.*

PRAISE: PSALM 121 (SCOTTISH PSALTER VERSION)

I to the hills will lift mine eyes,
from whence doth come mine aid.
My safety cometh from the LORD,
who heav'n and earth hath made.

Thy foot he'll not let slide, nor will
he slumber that thee keeps.
Behold, he that keeps Israel,
he slumbers not, nor sleeps.

The LORD thee keeps, the LORD thy
shade
on thy right hand doth stay:
The moon by night thee shall not smite,
nor yet the sun by day.

The LORD shall keep thy soul; he shall
preserve thee from all ill.
Henceforth thy going out and in
GOD keep for ever will.

PRAYER & APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our
Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day
he rose again from the dead;

**he ascended into heaven,
and sits on the right hand of God the
Father Almighty;
from there he shall come to judge the
living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit;**

**the holy universal church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TALK & LORD'S PRAYER

PRAISE: HIS NAME, HIS NAME

**His Name, His Name shall be called
Wonderful,
His Name, His Name shall be called
Counselor,**

**Almighty God, the Everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace throughout eternity.
Almighty God, the Everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace throughout eternity.**

Scripture chorus from Isaiah 9:6. Tune: Finlandia. CCL License 616262. Streaming 324811.

BIBLE READING: LUKE 2:22-40

²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord'), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: 'a pair of doves or two young pigeons'. ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: ²⁹ 'Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. ³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.' ³³ The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: 'This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.' ³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

PRAISE: I WILL SING OF MY REDEEMER

**I will sing of my Redeemer
and his wondrous love to me;
on the cruel cross he suffered
from the curse to set me free.**

***Sing, O sing of my Redeemer,
with his blood he purchased me,
on the cross he sealed my pardon,
paid the debt, and made me free.
I will tell the wondrous story,***

**how my lost estate to save,
in his boundless love and mercy
he the ransom freely gave.**

**I will sing of my Redeemer
and his heavenly love for me;
he from death to life hath brought me,
Son of God, with him to be.**

Philip P Bliss - 8787D - Hyfrydol.

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE – THE REDEEMER’S PEOPLE - LUKE 2:22-40

- 1). A REDEEMER REDEEMED.
- 2). A LIGHT, A GLORY AND A SWORD FOR THE REDEEMED.
- 3). THE REDEEMER’S PEOPLE.

PRAISE: THERE IS A REDEEMER

There is a Redeemer,
Jesus, God’s own Son,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy One.

*Thank You, O my Father,
for giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit
till the work on earth is done.*

Jesus, my Redeemer,
name above all names,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
O for sinners slain:

When I stand in glory
I will see His face,
and there I’ll serve my King for ever
in that holy place.

Melody Green © 1982 Ears to Hear Music.

PRAYER & BENEDICTION

SUNDAY AT SIX – 6 PM ORDER OF SERVICE (live in-person & on YouTube).

HEBREWS 12:1-3 – EYES FIXED ON THE HERO OF OUR FAITH.

- 1). Unburdened, We Run Our Race.
- 2). Untangled, We Fix Our Eyes on Jesus.
- 3). Unwearied, We Finish Our Race.

Evening Praise: Sing Psalms 85:1-7; How firm a Foundation; Sing Psalms 85:8-13.

DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

Happy New Year and thank you for supporting the mission of the Free North during the past year. Special thanks to our office-bearers, staff and pastoral workers at the Free North and in Merkinch.

Sympathy: We extend our sympathy to Kenny MacRae and his family, following the death of his mother Mrs Chrissie MacRae at Castlehill Nursing home, at the age of 99. A funeral will be held at William T Fraser’s Funeral Home, Culduthel Road, at 12.30 pm on Friday 14th January, followed by burial at Tomnahurich Cemetery.

Update on Public Health Measures: We have made some changes for January while Covid is circulating in the community. There will be no teas and coffees served after services this month. Unless exempt, a face covering should be used indoors. Folk from different households should try to observe 1 m social distancing. Our services on Sundays and Wednesdays will continue to be open for in-person worship and streamed live on YouTube. There is no need to book and we do not ask for contact details. Please do not attend if you are feeling unwell. There is greater space for social distancing on both sides downstairs and in the balcony area. *Road to Recovery* is not to meeting in person. The *January Week of Prayer* will mainly be on Zoom and the *Hope Explored Course* will be on Zoom. We understand some are uncertain about attending church during this time while many others feel a great need for fellowship with others. It is important we respect and support each other as we look to God for his care and help each day.

FCYC Youth Camps are back for 2022! For a holiday filled with fun activities, great friendships and helping to build strong disciples visit freechurchyouthcamps.org. Register by January 31st for the best chance to secure your first choice of camp.

Explore Daily Bible Notes are available on the resource table covering January to March (£3).

To subscribe to **The Record**, please contribute £24 for 2022. You can pay with an envelope in the offering with your name and marked for "The Record" (or via Paypal through our website).

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Week of Prayer: Join us this Monday to Friday online on Zoom, using the usual log-on details, as we pray for our church family, our city and our nation. Join us if you can each morning at 9 am, and each evening (apart from Wednesday) at 7.30 pm. Each time of prayer on Zoom will be no more than 30 minutes, and we will aim for short prayers of praise, thanksgiving and intercession. There will be an hour of prayer **in-person and on YouTube** at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 12th January.

Friday: Funeral of Mrs Chrissie MacRae, 12.30 pm, arrangements as noted above.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hope Explored: These days hope feels hard to come by, but the Bible has hope and a joyful vision of the future. Join us for a three-week *Hope Explored* course on Thursday evenings, 7-8 pm, from 20th January to 3rd February 2022. We will watch a film, discuss a question and explore a Bible passage about the Christian hope. Due to Covid, we will offer this course online only on Zoom. Give it a try and bring a friend! Email angusmacrae1967@gmail.com to request the log-on codes. Tell us you are coming we can send you a COURSE HANDBOOK. Use the usual Zoom details to take part.

Monthly "**Home Groups**" will meet on Zoom this month at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 19th January.

Healing Hurting Hearts is a course developed by the **Scottish Bible Society** to help apply the Bible to heal hurt, loss, grief and trauma. It is helpful for those supporting others and for those living with hurts. A six-week course is being run locally on Zoom on Monday nights from 1st February. If you are interested, contact Ali MacDonald by 18th January (alimacdonald@smithtonchurch.com).

Next month we will celebrate **Communion** with a guest speaker, Rev Murdo Campbell from Barvas, who will lead our services on Saturday and Sunday 12th and 13th February.

PRAYER

You can now sign up for regular prayer information from the Free Church, covering churches in Scotland and mission partners around the world. Sign up at: <http://eepurl.com/hPlc1r>. Pray for gospel growth in our hearts and in our church family this year. Pray for our ministers Angus and Chris as they teach God's word, for Chris as he recovers from Covid and for our elders and staff at the Free North and in the Merkinch including Carrie and Cristi. Pray for a clear vision to bring the good news to our City. Pray for opportunities to share Jesus with family and friends. Pray for the Week of Prayer and the Hope Explored Course to be fruitful times. Pray for any who are struggling that they will be comforted. Pray that we would love and care well for each other as a church family.

SUPPORT

Staying in touch: Contact Angus, Carrie or any of the elders for pastoral support. Email office@freenorthchurch.org to request a weekly email update and to request Zoom log-on codes.

Giving: You can donate at our website (PayPal logo), in the offering plate, or directly to our "Free North Church" account (82-65-18, a/c 40246657). Enquiries to treasurer@freenorthchurch.org.